

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/664,273 Conf. No.: 3435  
Applicant : George D. Hermann et al.  
Filed : September 16, 2003  
TC/A.U. : 3773  
Examiner : Melissa K. Ryckman  
Docket No.: 06-516  
Cust. No. : 34704

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT TRANSMITTAL

Dear Sir:

In accordance with Applicants' continued duty of disclosure, the documents on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a are brought to the Examiner's attention. Copies of the non-US-patent documents are enclosed. Per MPEP 609.04(a) III, also enclosed is a copy of the Japanese Office Action, along with an English translation of same, in which some of the non-English documents are cited. U.S. 6,165,186 and U.S. 6,007,552 (also listed) are English family members of Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002508205 and further explain the relevance. U.S. 5,865,730 (also listed) is an English family member of Japanese Patent Publication No. 11226021 and further explains the relevance.

The undersigned submits the above-identified references for independent consideration by the Examiner and does not make any admission that these references are or are not material to the present invention or that these references are or are not prior art with respect to the present invention.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it  
is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit  
Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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